

## Washington Is a Mecca for Patent Attorneys of the U. S.

More Than 300 Such Solicitors Have Been Attracted to National Capital. Most of Them Being Members of the Bar—National Association Organized.

Washington is the Mecca for patent attorneys of the United States. There are more patent attorneys here than in any other city of the country. The Patent Office here at the seat of government serves as a powerful magnet, drawing industrious and ambitious patent attorneys from all sections of the land.

The advantages of location in Washington are too obvious to need specification. Patent attorneys have found that it is essential to be located in the city where their work is passed upon. The files and records of the office are easily accessible for purposes of searching—one of the most important parts of patent work. Proximity to the office eliminates a great waste of time and expedites considerably the issuance of patents to applicants.

For these reasons patent solicitors have gravitated to the National Capital. There are more than 300 of them in the city. And practically all of the solicitors are members of the bar, whether they actually practice or not. There was a day when but few solicitors were practitioners. The solicitor handled the technical parts and the lawyer took care of the legal problems involved. That day has passed. Nearly all solicitors now are qualified to assume charge of all phases of the patent work.

As far as patent soliciting is concerned, Washington is in a class by itself. Actual practitioners here, however, are not so numerous as in other cities. New York and Chicago both have large numbers of patent practitioners. There being but little patent litigation here, the need for practitioners is less marked.

It is significant that more than a third of the members of the American Patent Law Association are residents of Washington. This organization was formed in January, 1897, and originally was merely local in scope, being known as the Patent Law Association of Washington. A short time ago the association was nationalized upon the solicitation of patent attorneys residing in other cities, who realized the immense benefits to be derived from membership in the organization.

The association has even an international scope, a number of foreign patent attorneys being members. Great care is exercised, however, in admitting foreign members, and they are not regarded as full members unless it is evident that they can be of material assistance and benefit to the organization in its campaigns for better patent laws. The association is compelled to reject the applications of many foreign patent attorneys who seek membership solely because of the prestige and advertisement they would gain.

The association has a membership of between 500 and 600, approximately 200 members being residents of the National Capital. The organization is decidedly conservative in character and seeks rather to check unwise legislation than to urge radical revisions of existing laws, although much constructive legislation has been advocated and pushed forward to passage.

During the past eight or ten years there has been proposed in both Houses of Congress much patent law legislation of the wildest type, and the efforts of the association have been directed primarily toward thwarting the passage of these bills. The organization is cautious about its advocacy of reforms, for the proposing of a revision always excites some to a desire to rip the laws up and down and build upon entirely new ground. The association believes that changes should be brought about more gradually, so as to avoid the disruption of business methods and throw patent attorneys out of equilibrium by radical transformations.

The association, however, has done a considerable amount of reform

work. It steadily has worked for the enactment of better trade mark laws and is largely responsible for the laws on the subject now in force. The organization has also used numerous revisions of the copyright laws.

Three of the five officers of the association are residents of Washington. The president is J. H. Brickenstein, of 513 F street northwest. The secretary is Eugene G. Mason, of the Washington Loan and Trust Building, Langdon Moore, of the Washington Loan and Trust Building, is treasurer. The first vice president is W. A. Redding, of New York, and the second vice president is George P. Whittlesey, of the General Electric Company at Schenectady, N. Y.

### Oldest "Office Boy" Attorney.

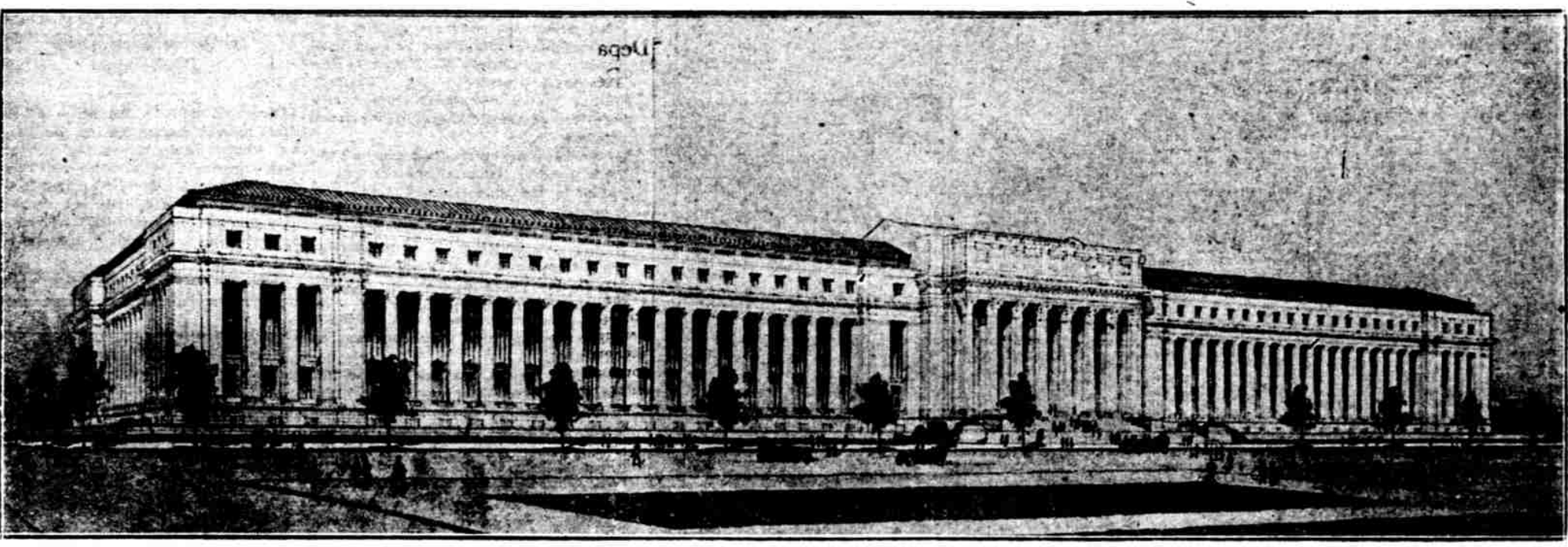
E. W. Bradford, of the Washington Loan and Trust Building, preceded Mr. Brickenstein as president of the organization. His predecessor was W. D. Dodge, of the "firm of Dodge & Sons, 724 Ninth street northwest. Mr. Dodge has been a member of the organization since about the time of its establishment and has been continuously on the committee on laws and rules except for the periods when he was rendered ineligible by reason of holding successively the offices of second vice president, first vice president and president of the association. Mr. Dodge boasts proudly of being the oldest "office boy" patent attorney in Washington, in point of years of service. He entered the patent law office of his father in 1872 as an office boy, at first making fires and sweeping the rooms and doing odd jobs, and then later taking a hand at drawing, searching, specification writing and other parts of the business. He says that to his knowledge Melville Church is the only patent attorney who has been longer in the business than he, the difference being several months; but this does not cause Mr. Dodge to lose the distinction of being the oldest "office boy" attorney, for Mr. Church is said never to have served in the capacity of office boy, Mr. Dodge is a member of the local bar, before which he has practiced for many years.

There has been a steady increase for many years in the number of patents granted and the number of applications filed. Since July 28, 1915, when the present series of numbers of letters patent commenced, there have been issued 1,002,257 patents, 45,093 designs and 91,736 trade marks and there have been 12,999 reissues of patents. In 1915 but one patent was granted and in the following year only 110 patents were issued. For the last calendar year 3,394 patents were granted, a marked increase over the preceding year, when 3,391 were issued. The number of applications last year for mechanical patents was 67,711 which shows that only a little more than half of those asked for are granted.

In proportion to population more patents were issued last year to citizens of Connecticut than to those of any other State, one to every 217. Next in order came the District of Columbia, with one to every 873. Thomas Ewing, present Commissioner of Patents, is not in sympathy with the movement for limiting the number of persons practicing before the office to those who have passed examinations similar to the one held for admission to the bar. "It is believed," he says in his last annual report, "that this requirement would be too severe, as many persons not specially trained in the law and without any particular educational advantages may by careful study of the practice and of the useful arts learn adequately to prosecute applications. Fundamentally, knowledge of the invention is more important than knowledge of the rules, and is often possessed by men of a type of mind which does not acquire legal knowledge readily."

"It is of far more importance that

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the applicant be in actual touch with his attorney and that the relation established be one of mutual trust and confidence. Unfortunately a large amount of the business presented to the office originates from widespread advertisements and is accumulated by certain attorneys in such quantities that the relation of client and attorney can hardly be said to exist. Such attorneys have for many years used in their advertisement letters from members of Congress and other officials of the government recommending them. These recommendations, however guarded, are likely to impress people ignorant of the procedure with the idea that influence can be brought to bear upon the Patent Office to secure the allowance of patents. I feel very strongly that both the office and the public need to be protected against business originated in this way."

The local patent law fraternity is composed of scores of attorneys of national reputation. Among them is Edward Bruce Moore, former United States Commissioner of Patents, who has offices in the Barrister Building. He is a native of Maine and was born in 1851. He received a high school education and later went to private tutors. When but a boy he served for about a year as page in the United States Senate. He was admitted to the bar in 1881 and two years later was made assistant examiner in the Patent Office. He was appointed law clerk in 1898 and the following year was made principal examiner. He was appointed assistant commissioner in 1901 by President McKinley, retaining the position until June 1, 1907, when he was appointed Commissioner of Patents by President Roosevelt. He served in this capacity until the early part of the Wilson administration. Mr. Moore was special commissioner

from the United States to the Paris Exposition in 1900 and was United States delegate to the International Patent Congress at Stockholm in 1906. In that same year he successfully negotiated with the German government the present treaty relating to the non-working of patents in Germany by American inventors and manufacturers. In the following year he was special diplomatic representative to arrangements relating to patents with Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Russia, Austria, Italy, France, Spain and Belgium. In 1910 he was commissioned by President Taft as special expert attaché to the American delegation to the Fourth International Congress of American States at Buenos Aires, and prepared conventions relating to patents, trade marks, and copyrights adopted by that congress. In the following year he was appointed chairman of the American delegation to the conference of the International Union for the Protection of Industrial Property, held at Washington, forty nations being represented.

The firm of Victor J. Evans & Co., located at Ninth and Grant streets northwest, likewise has a national reputation. Mr. Evans has for sixteen years been at the head of the company. He has lived here for twenty-five years and for twenty-two years of the time has been engaged in the patent business. His firm handles all kinds of patents, both American and foreign.

Mr. Evans is especially fond of animals, and he devotes his spare time to seeking rare specimens. He has taken a great interest in the local Zoological Park and has presented two management from time to time with numerous animals—principally monkeys, baboons and llamas. He has been instrumental in having the an-

nual Congressional appropriations for the "zoo" increased materially.

Mr. Evans is a Scottish Rite Mason and a Shriner and belongs to many other fraternal organizations. He is director and officer of several local banks and business concerns.

C. A. Snow, of the firm of C. A. Snow & Co., 710 Eighth street northwest, is another well-known patent attorney. He is now slightly past three score years and ten and consequently devotes but little time to the actual work of his firm. He is a native of Virginia and spends much of his time there. His principal hobby is making money, and during his time he has followed his hobby assiduously. He has been in the patent business for more than forty years. He has taken for many years an active interest in campaigns against cruelty to animals and at present is a member of the Washington Humane Society. He has been married three times.

One of the oldest firms in the city is that of Edson Brothers, with offices in the Washington Loan and Trust Building. The establishment was founded in 1856 by John Joy Edson and Joseph R. Edson, brothers. Next year the fiftieth anniversary of the firm will be celebrated. Because of the press of his financial affairs, John Joy Edson some time ago retired from the patent business, the brother continuing the practice. Since then John

Joy Edson has made himself prominent as a successful financier. He is prominently connected with both the Washington Loan and Trust Company and the Equitable Building Association. His brother is a member of the American Patent Law Association and has taken a leading part in crusades for the enactment of reform legislation relative to patent laws and procedure.

Arthur P. Greeley, with offices in the Washington Loan and Trust Building, is a former official of the Patent Office. He was a member of the examining corps from 1894 until 1900, since which time he has been actively engaged in practice here. He held successively the positions of examiner in chief, principal examiner, and examiner of trade marks, and for three years was assistant commissioner of patents. In 1895 he was a member of the commission appointed to revise the patent laws of the country

and he is the author of the bill which by enactment by Congress forms the basis of the present trade mark law. He was in charge of the Patent Office exhibit at the World's Fair at Chicago in 1892. Mr. Greeley is a member of the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Edward E. Clement, with offices in the McLachlen Building, likewise served for a number of years as an official of the Patent Office. Mr. Clement came here in 1884 and four years later was appointed to the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis. He resigned before the completion of his course of training and entered the engineering office of Gen. Sprigg. As an engineer and architect he aided in building a number of notable Washington buildings, particularly the residence of Senator Henderson. He

was appointed examiner in the Patent Office in 1890, serving in the hydraulic department for a year and in the electrical department for seven years. He resigned in 1898, since which he has been engaged here in the practice of patent law. He is president and chief engineer of a number of companies and is attorney for the Independent Telephone Companies, numbering about 300.

Mr. Clement is a director of the Board of Trade and of the Y. M. C. A., and is a member of the board of trustees of the Fourth Presbyterian Church. He is especially fond of athletics and devotes a considerable amount of time to tennis and golf.

Melville Church is one of the oldest patent attorneys of Washington. He was admitted to the bar in 1879 and has been practicing steadily ever since. He was born in Utica, N. Y., in 1856. He was graduated from St. John's Academy at Alexandria, Va., and received the degrees of bachelor of laws, master of laws and master of patent law from Columbian (now George Washington) University. He is a lecturer on patent law at the George Washington University Law School and is a member of the American Bar Association. He was a delegate of the United States to the conference of the International Union for Protection of Industrial Property, held here in 1911. He has offices in the McGill Building.

These are but a few of the scores of local patent attorneys of national reputation and of marked success. The brief sketches of their careers show in a way the scope of activities, the extent of ability, the breadth of interest, and the degree of success possessed by the great majority of the members of the patent law fraternity of the National Capital.

The last New York city telephone directory contains 350,000 listings for 566,000 telephones in the city. The first telephone directory, issued in 1878, consisted of a card containing the names of 252 subscribers. The present directory has 970 pages, and an edition of 610,000 copies has been distributed. The preparation of the directory consumed fifty carloads of paper, seven tons of ink and 230 miles of binding wire.

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Dr. George Williamson Cabaness was born in Halifax County, Va., August 28, 1857. During boyhood he lived and worked with his parents on the farm and attended the public schools. He engaged in the grocery and dry goods business from 1878 to 1882 at South Boston, Va., and served for two years as magistrate of that township. In 1882 he went to Richmond, Va., and entered the Richmond Institute from which he graduated in 1886, having in the meantime served as supervisor of the Central Lunatic Asylum. During this period the nomination for the Virginia legislature was offered him; but although he is a Republican, he did not at that time take a very active part in politics and does not now, so he therefore had to decline to accept the nomination. In 1888 Dr. Cabaness came to Washington and entered the Howard University medical department, graduated in 1890 and has been practicing here since then except when he was studying abroad in Paris and London. He is held in high esteem by the medical profession of this country, is actively engaged in religious, civil and social work and is now holding prominent positions in each branch of this work. He is also president of the Common Welfare Club of the District of Columbia, member of the consulting board of the Freedmen's Hospital. He is actively engaged in the work of the Y. M. C. A. In 1892 he married Miss Louise R. Tancil and their home is now located at 1744 K street northwest, one of Washington's most fashionable thoroughfares. Dr. Cabaness is one of Washington's leading colored citizens and is always willing to assist in any movement that tends for the betterment of the community and of his people.

Rev. Alexander Correll Garner, born in Blount County, East Tennessee, March 19, 1868, now pastor of the Plymouth Congregational Church, at Seventeenth and P streets northwest, Washington, D. C., has served his present charge nearly nineteen years, and has the honor of holding the largest pastorate of his denomination in this city. The Plymouth Church has a beautiful property, valued at about \$35,000, which has been highly developed by the present pastor. Rev. Garner took charge of this church as a mission of the American Missionary Association of New York, and has brought it to the dignity of a self-sustaining church, independent of ecclesiastical authority. The church is now one of the most important in the country.

Rev. Garner is in the largest sense a community man, and always boasts Washington as being the most beautiful and desirable city in the country. He is a graduate of the Chicago Theological Seminary and received the honorary degree of doctor of divinity from the Howard University in 1908. He is an officer of the Washington Ministers' Union, the Alley Improvement Association, the Central Northwest Citizens' Association, the Independent Order of St. Luke, and the Grand and United Order of Odd Fellows. In his denomination he has attained the highest honor that a colored man has ever received.

In Birmingham, Ala., September 19, 1909, he was chosen president of the National Convention of Congregational Workers Among the Colored People. On October 21, 1909, he was elected a vice president of the American Missionary Association at its sixty-third annual meeting in Burlington, Vt. At the meeting of the National Council of Congregational Churches of the United States, in Kansas City, Mo., 1913, Rev. Garner was unanimously elected second assistant moderator, and presided at one of the sessions. He is the only colored man ever sent as a delegate from the District of Columbia to the National Council. He is founder and president of the Stribley Congregational Club, of Washington, D. C. He is now making a tour of the churches of his denomination in North and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, and Tennessee. He has spoken a number of times in the New England States and in the North for his denomination, and is very highly regarded by his co-workers, and retains the esteem and respect of those who know him.

Rev. Garner has given his lifetime to his church and the social needs of the city in which he lives. He is a very able speaker, and some of the leading citizens of the country are quoted as saying that he measures up to better than the best of his race. He now resides with his family at 943 T street northwest, this city. Mrs. Garner is the daughter of Ben. Maynard, a well-to-do farmer of Knoxville, Tenn., and is a fine help to Mr. Garner in his work. Three daughters and three sons complete the family.

### DR. ROYAL GARFIELD MUNDY.

Dr. Royal Garfield Mundy, born September 1, 1886, Washington, D. C., obtained his education in the public and high schools of Washington, and in 1909 he attended the medical department of Howard University, and graduated from there in 1907 with highest honors. Dr. Mundy now has built himself a nice practice, and he started practicing his profession in 1906, and is now medical examiner of the Knights of St. John's and member of the Nineteenth Street Baptist Church clinic. He is well known in religious circles in Washington, and is a member of the First Baptist Church on Third street southwest. He is a member of the Medical-Chirological Society of Washington. He now resides with his family at 445 O street northwest, Washington, D. C.



### DR. ELIAS GEORGE EVANS

is a native of Florida. Raised on his father's farm, he obtained his education from the Florida Institute from which he began teaching in the country schools. After teaching two years he entered the State Normal College of Florida from which he graduated with high honors after attending four years; then became a State teacher and held the principality of some of the best city schools of the State and was appointed by the faculty editor of the college news bureau for two consecutive years, also was president of the College Alumni Association for three years. He entered the medical department of Howard University in 1904 and served as night clerk of the department of medicine, and had to discontinue his studies after going through the three-year course. He was elected a member of the college of the medical department and graduated in June, 1913, passed the District board examination in January, 1914, and opened his office in February, 1914. Dr. Evans is well known in religious circles, a member of both Odd Fellows and Masonic fraternal organizations, and has been an officer in the Bethel Literary and Historical Society of Washington, D. C. for some time. He also was elected the fifth vice president of the Alumni Association of Howard University in June, 1915. Dr. Evans is a bachelor. His office is located on one of the most popular business streets of Washington and is fitted with the latest and best dental equipment that can be obtained anywhere. His practice is increasing daily and is now very large, for he is kept busy day and night, as his office is fitted up for both day and night work. He now resides at 1115 U street northwest, Washington, D. C.

### W. S. LOFTON, D. D. S.

Son of William and Mather Lofton, born March 1865, Batesville, Arkansas. Was brought to Washington by his parents October, 1869, and attended the public schools of this city, graduated at Georgetown College, Washington, D. C., 1886. Attended Howard University Dental College, summer 18, 19, 20, 1888 and graduated D. D. S. in 1890. He began practice at 154 M street N. W. He has always been a lively interest in the civic advancement of the city and all movements looking to constructively improve the people. Was a pioneer in the practice of his profession in Washington, and during his life has won a reputation in the city's growth from 1865. He is very active in church and civic circles, and is a member of the National Medical Association, the National Dental Association, the American Dental Association, the Washington Board of Trade for a number of years. He has been a member of the National Medical Association since its inception, and has been a member of the State Normal School, at Elizabeth City, N. C., Yale University and the Westboro Seminary at Portland, Me., from which he graduated in 1904, and then took charge of a mission in that city, which position he held for four years. He then became a teacher in the Edenton Industrial High School at Edenton, N. C., and during his teaching there, which was for three years, he was also pastor of the colored church at Greenville, N. C. He was elected a delegate and represented the Virginia Conference in the General Conference of the A. M. E. Zion Church, at Philadelphia, which was held in May, 1908, and was transferred to the New England Conference, and was stationed at Bridgport, Conn., and later at New Haven, Conn. He was then transferred to the Philadelphia Conference and stationed at John Wesley A. M. E. Zion Church, of this city. He has bought a new church at the corner of 11th and M streets, and has made a wonderful increase in membership during his charge. He is chairman of this conference delegation to the General Conference which opens in Louisville, Ky., in 1916. He is a member of a majority of the leading fraternal organizations, and at present is president of the A. M. E. Zion Ministry Union of this city. He now resides with his wife at 1125 2d St. N. W., Washington, D. C.



The Rev. William Carolina Brown was born June 24, 1878, in Chowan County, North Carolina. He obtained his education by attending the Edenton Industrial High School at Edenton, North Carolina, and a member of the F. A. M. Dr. Lofton has achieved success in his profession and the respect of his State officers, and it is without question a well-made man.

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